## Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 22, and continuing on to page 2, with the following:

The DOCSIS protocol allows for transparent, bi-directional transfer of Internet Protocol (IP) traffic between cable system headend and customer locations. The IP traffic is transmitted over coaxial cables or hybrid-fiber/coaxial (HFC) cables. Fig. 1a is a diagrammatic representation of a wired cable system which uses DOCSIS. A cable system 100 includes a cable mode terminating system (CMTS) 104, which is located at a headend, *i.e.*, a service provider location. Cable system 100 also includes cable modems (CMs) 108, which are typically located at customer locations. Often, CMs 108 are in communication with computer systems, *e.g.*, CM 108b is ~~lined~~ linked to a local area network (LAN) 116 and CM 108c is linked to a computer 112. A cable line 106 is a transmission path which enables IP traffic to be transferred between CMTS 104 and CMs 108. Typically, only one CM 108 may transmit data on cable line 106 at any given time.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 11, line 21 with the following:

Fig. 11 is a diagrammatic representation of a subscriber unit or a cable modem which routes packets using both classifiers and a hashing function in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. A device 1100, which may be a subscriber unit or a cable modem, includes a protocol stack 1104 which includes a block 1108 associated with at least one of a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP), a Trivial File-Transfer Protocol (TFTP), and a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP). Stack 1104 also includes a block 1112 which enables telnet, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), and remote login (RLOGIN) functionality to be associated with device 1100.